

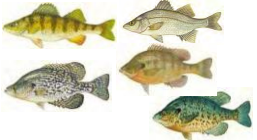


















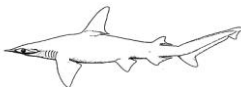
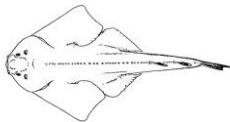

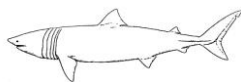








Delaware's Recreational Season, Size and Creel Limits

2012 Quick Reference

		Species	Open Season	Minimum Size	Daily Limit
Non - tidal Waters		Largemouth bass	All year	12 inches; except 15 inches in Becks Pond	6; except 2 from Becks Pond
		Smallmouth bass	All year	None between 12 - 17 inches	6 (no more than 1 > 17 inches)
		Striped bass hybrid <i>(Only occur in Lums Pond)</i>	All year	15 inches	2
		Panfish <i>(bluegill, pumpkinseed, redear, crappie, yellow & white perch)</i>	All year	None	50 (no more than 25 of one species)
		Trout (special rules apply)	Opens first Saturday in April	None	6 (4 in fly-fishing only waters)
Tidal Waters		American eel	All year	6 inches	50
		American & hickory shad	Closed Nanticoke R. & its tribs.; Open all year elsewhere	None	10 in any combination
		Atlantic croaker	All year	8 inches	None
		Atlantic sturgeon	Closed - no harvest permitted		
		Black drum	All year	16 inches	3
		Black sea bass	Jan 1 - Feb 28 May 19 - Oct. 14 Nov. 1 - Dec. 31	12.5"	15 25 25
		Bluefish	All year	None	10
		Catfish (any species)	All year	None	None
		Red drum	All year	20 - 27 inches may be retained	5
		River herring <i>(alewife & blueback)</i>	Closed - no harvest permitted		
		Scup	All year	8 inches	50
		Spanish mackerel	All year	14 inches	10
		Spotted seatrout	All year	12 inches	None
		Striped bass	All year	28 inches, except only 20 - 26 inch fish may be retained from July 1 - Aug. 31 in DE River, DE Bay & their tribs.	2, except catch & release only on spawning grounds April 1 - May 31
		Summer flounder	Jan. 1 - Oct. 23	18"	4
		Tautog	April 1 - May 11 July 17 - Aug. 31 Sept. 29 - Mar 31	16" 16" 16"	3 5 5
		Weakfish	All year	13 inches	1
		White perch	All year	8 inches	None
		Winter flounder	Feb. 11 - Apr. 10	12 inches	2
		Shark, tuna & billfish	Refer to back		
	Note: A general fishing license is now required to fish for blue crabs and clams		Blue crab	Pots: Mar. 1 - Nov. 30; other gears year around	Peeler - 3 inches Soft-shell - 3.5 inches Hard-shell - 5 inches 1 bushel
			Hard clams	All year	1.5 inches 100/resident; 50/non-resident
			Lobster	All year	3 3/8 - 5 1/4 inches 2; V-notched prohibited

2011 Sharks and Highly Migratory Species (HMS)

	Species	Open Season	Minimum Size	Daily Limit
Sharks *- Special permit may be required for federal waters		Spiny & smooth dogfish	All year	None
		Blacktip shark, bull shark, great hammerhead, lemon shark, nurse shark, scalloped hammerhead, silky shark, smooth hammerhead, spinner shark, tiger shark	Jan. 1 -May 14; July 16 - Dec. 31	54 -inches FORK LENGTH
		Blue shark, oceanic white-tip shark, porbeagle, shortfin mako, thresher shark	All year	54 -inches FORK LENGTH
		Atlantic sharpnose shark, blacknose shark, bonnethead, finetooth shark	All year	None
		<u>Sandbar shark, sand tiger</u> , Atlantic angel shark, basking shark, bigeye sand tiger, bigeye sixgill shark, bigeye thresher, bignose shark, Caribbean reef shark, Caribbean sharpnose shark, dusky shark, Galapagos shark, longfin mako, narrowtooth shark, night shark, sevengill shark, sixgill shark, smalltail shark, whale shark, white shark	SPECIES PROHIBITED	
				
				
				
<p>Special Restrictions for Shark</p> <p>It is unlawful to fillet a shark prior to landing. A shark may be eviscerated prior to landing, but head, tail and fins must remain attached to the carcass.</p> <p>It is unlawful to release a shark in a manner that will not ensure the sharks maximum probability of survival (i.e. no gaffs, no clubbing, careful hook removal, etc.).</p> <p>It is unlawful to possess the fins from any shark prior to landing unless they are naturally attached to the body of the shark.</p>				
Tunas and HMS* - Special permit required		Atlantic tunas, swordfish and billfish	<p>*Special permit required - All private vessel owners/operators recreationally fishing for and/or retaining regulated Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (Atlantic tunas, sharks, swordfish and billfish) for personal use in the Atlantic Ocean must obtain an Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Angling Permit. Further limits and restrictions apply. Consult www.hmspermits.gov or call toll free (888) 872-8862 for specific information and permits.</p>	
				
				
				
				

Sandbar and sand tiger shark images adapted from Compagno, L.J.V. 1984. FAO species catalogue. Vol. 4. Sharks of the World. Parts 1 & 2 available courtesy of www.fishbase.org . Lineart of other shark species from Bigelow, H.B. and W.C. Schroeder (1953) available courtesy of www.nefsc.noaa.gov/lineart/.

